

STATE OF CONNECTICUT • COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET • P. O. BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

www.ellington-ct.gov

ROBERT J. CLEMENTS
Chairman

SPECIAL MEETING BOARD OF FINANCE TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2010

RICHARD J. CLEARY
MARK A. JOYSE
BARRY C. PINTO
MICHAEL D. VARNEY
JOSEPH E. WEHR

Members Present: Chairman R. Clements, M. Joyse, B. Pinto, M. Varney, J. Wehr

Members Absent: R. Cleary

Others Present: N. DiCorleto-Fin Officer, M. Blanchette-First Selectman, V. Gambacorta-Asst. Chief EVFD, G. Fetko-DPW Director, several members of EVFD, R. Neal-Resident, L. Smith-Hartford Courant Reporter.

Call to Order

Chairman Clements called the special meeting of the Board of Finance to order at 8:07 PM.

Citizen's Forum – None

Tax Collector – Transfer to Suspense

The Tax Collector has requested approval to transfer 121 accounts totaling \$17,459.96 to suspense. The Finance Officer told the Board that she continues to pursue the collection of these accounts even though they are in suspense. These accounts are tied into the DMV system so that new vehicles cannot be registered until the back taxes are paid.

MOVED (WEHR) SECONDED (VARNEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF 121 ACCOUNTS TOTALING \$17,459.96 TO SUSPENSE.

Accept \$200,000 STEAP Grant for Fire Training Area and send to Town Meeting

The Center Fire Dept. applied for this STEAP grant and received it. The Board of Selectmen has approved it. Asst. Chief Gambacorta stated that the training area that they want to construct on Pinney Street will consist of a driveway into the property, a paved training pad and utilities. They will move the burn/training trailer to that site. It is presently being used at the parking lot between the DPW garage and the Firehouse.

Mr. Clements asked about a fence for security and Mr. Gambacorta stated that there will be lights with motion detectors on the poles. Mr. Gambacorta stated that this facility will also

provide parking for the Santini Park. He stated that the trailer is always locked and is not behind any fencing now.

Mr. Joyse asked how they would be securing the climbing tower. Mr. Gambacorta stated that there will be a stairway with a locked gate. The climbing tower will be standard 40 ft height. The burn trailer emits a non-toxic vapor and is used about two Thursdays per month from 7-9 PM. They have not received any complaints where it is presently located which is close to apartments and residents on Main St. It will save the department time and money by not having to go to the Training Facility in Windsor Locks for all training. There will be some classroom training that will still require men going to Windsor Locks. He pointed out that there will be a berm put in front and on one side of the facility to block the view.

Mr. Wehr stated that if approval is received at town meeting, it will still have to go to Planning & Zoning. Mr. Varney agreed that it has to go through all the commission approvals before any work is done.

Mr. Joyse asked if the project could be done in stages if the grant funds do not cover the entire costs. Mr. Gambacorta stated that the engineer feels it can be done with the funds granted but that it most certainly could be phased in.

MOVED (JOYSE) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED (ALL VOTED AYE -VARNEY ABSTAINED) TO AUTHORIZE THE FIRST SELECTMAN TO WARN A TOWN MEETING FOR MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2010 AT 7:15 PM AT THE ELLINGTON TOWN HALL TO CONSIDER THE ABOVE NOTED STEAP GRANT CONCERNING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF A FIRE TRAINING AREA.

Acceptance and Expend – ARRA Justice Assistance Grant \$9,100

MOVED (VARNEY) SECONDED (WEHR) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT AND EXPEND THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT 2009 CONNECTICUT LOCAL PASS-THROUGH JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR FY 2009-10 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,100 AND FURTHER RESOLVED, TO ADD THIS ITEM TO THE NEXT SPECIAL TOWN MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION.

Acceptance and Expend – ARRA Energy Efficiency Grant \$66,772

Public Works Director, George Fetko, stated that this grant money is for energy efficient lighting, electrical and HVAC at the Old Crystal Lake Schoolhouse. It will enhance the energy efficiency to the maximum. Because the project will now use federal funds, the project becomes a prevailing wage project. There are costs to manage the grant; funds are expended each month to administer the grant.

Mr. Clements asked whether the building could be completed if the Town did not accept the grant funds. Mr. Fetko stated that low bidder came in higher than budget, so the additional appropriation would still be needed regardless of the grant. Mr. DiCorleto stated that the project would have to be prevailing wage because of the cost limit associated with it.

Mr. Wehr asked what the payback would be on the energy efficiency of the building. Mr. Fetko stated that the payback would be based on the use of the building.

Mr. Clements felt in this case, the town should expend the \$39,500 and be done with the project. Mr. Varney asked about the use of the building. Mr. Fetko stated that it will be a meeting room and possibly future departments housed there, such as Parks & Rec.

MOVED (PINTO) SECONDED (JOYSE) AND PASSED TO ACCEPT AND EXPEND THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009-ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT FOR THE OLD CRYSTAL LAKE SCHOOL ENERGY EFFICIENCY UPGRADE FOR FY 2009-10 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$66,772.

**VOTE: AYES – CLEMENTS, PINTO, VARNEY
NAYS – WEHR, JOYSE**

Additional Appropriation – Old Crystal Lake Schoolhouse Renovation - \$39,500

Mr. Clements stated that for several years the Board of Finance has appropriated money to this project. He stated he did not like the budget or scope creep but he feels that if \$39,500 will finish the renovation, he urged the members to approve it.

Mr. Fetko stated that if this is not approved, the contract with the low bidder cannot be executed. If approved, the project will be completed by the end of 2010.

Mr. Wehr felt that the general fund did not have enough funds in it to make an additional appropriation because too much of the fund balance was used to offset the 2010-11 budget. Mr. Clements reiterated that he did not feel the taxpayers' funds should be used as a savings account and that there is the contingency fund in place that is funded yearly.

MOVED (PINTO) SECONDED (VARNEY) AND PASSED TO APPROVE AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$39,500 FROM 2010-11 GENERAL FUND BALANCE TO THE 2010-2011 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT OLD CRYSTAL LAKE SCHOOL HOUSE RENOVATIONS ACCOUNT.

**VOTE: AYES: - CLEMENTS, PINTO, VARNEY
NAYS: - WEHR, JOYSE**

Other Business

The Chairman allowed Mr. Varney to bring the Board of Finance up to date on what has been happening with the Ad Hoc BOE Facilities Committee. He stated that they have met many times since May and that after several scenarios, they are looking at two options. One is the complete renovation and an addition to Crystal Lake School and to make all elementary schools K-6. This would alleviate the grade 7-8 busing problem and school crowding as well as the renovation of the final school in the system. The second option they are looking at is to add 6th grade to the Middle School which would require an addition to the school. Crystal Lake School would still need renovations. They are not looking at any new schools to be built.

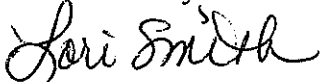
A March 2011 referendum date is being considered in order to receive approval from the State by June 30. The new procedure is for the approval of funds by the taxpayers through a referendum before applying to the State for reimbursement.

The Board of Education will be presenting the results of the committee's findings within the next couple of months.

Adjournment

**MOVED (WEHR) SECONDED (JOYSE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO
ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:00 PM.**

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori Smith".

Lori Smith, Recording Secretary